111 OM10 New Ireland

1: Powdermaker, Hortense. Life in Lesu, the Study of a Melanesian Society in New Ireland. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1933.

Pp. 352; 15 plates; 1 map; 1 plan

Yale: Nkd99. B4. 933p

[This source is a basic ethnographic study of the village of Lesu on the island of New Ireland. The emphasis in the study is on social organization and non-material culture. Included are discussions of social organization, infancy, childhood, initiation rites, marriage, work, sexual life, knowledge, magic and religion, and the individual and society. Additional information on magic not included in the text, a table of intermarriages between clans, and a glossary are given in appendices. Dr. Powdermaker is now Professor of Anthropology at Queens College. --Analyst]

Field date: 1929-1930
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1961

2: Powdermaker, Hortense. Mortuary Rites in New Ireland (Bismarck Archipelago). Oceania, Vol. 2, pp. 26-43. Sidney, 1931.

Yale: Nk10. Oc2. v. 2

[The author did her field work for this article under the auspices of the Australian National Research Council. The mortuary rites described here were observed in the villages located on the east coast of New Ireland. The article includes information on the natives' attitude toward death, preparation before death, funeral rites, mourning rites, periodic feasts after death, and the emotional response of the relatives and community members during the rites. - Analyst]

Field date: 1929-1930
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1961

3: Chinnery, E. W. Pearson. Studies of the Native Population of the East Coast of New Ireland. Territory of New Guinea, Anthropological Report, No. 6. Canberra, 1931.

Pp. 50; 1 map; appendix.

Yale: Nkd99. N4. N42. v. 6

[This is a report on a census taken by a government anthropologist. Besides data on the total population and the distribution of the population according to sex, age, locality, and kinship affiliation, the author also has gathered valuable information on birth and mortality rates, settlement pattern, kinship terminology and structure, employment opportunities, and the influence of plantation and missionary activities upon the native population trend. -- Analyst]

Field date: 1929
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Government Official, Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1961

4: Powdermaker, Hortense. Vital Statistics of New Ireland (Bismarck Archipelago) as Revealed in Genealogies. Human Biology, Vol. 3, pp. 351-375. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1931.

Yale: Nk10. H88. V. 3.

[This article contains demographic information concerning birth, death, disease, and population trends derived from genealogical materials collected during the author's stay in the village of Lesu, although the data also concern a few other communities. Sufficient information on a number of related aspects of the culture, such as marriage and birth customs and acculturative factors, are introduced to provide a balanced presentation of the various forces affecting population growth or decline. The author also includes a theoretical discussion of the general problem of indigenous population trends, and relates her findings to the theories discussed. --Analyst]

Field date: 1929-1930
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1961

5: Powdermaker, Hortense. Feasts in New Ireland; the Social Function of Eating. American Anthropologist, Vol. 34, pp. 236-247. Menasha, Wisconsin: American Anthropological Association, 1932.

Yale: Nk10. Am 37. II. 34

[This article, as the title suggests, discusses the function of eating as it occurs under communal-ritual conditions. The author presents a theoretical introduction to the subject, and descriptive data concerning feasting among the people of Lesu as she observed it on numerous occasions related to life cycle rites, economic transactions, war and peace, and other events. Preparations, the roles of men compared to those of women, moiety activities, trade and gift exchange, and other customs are discussed when pertinent to the feast itself. The author summarizes her data and concludes that feasts are a form of ritual serving to impress the sentiments of the society upon the individual, thus maintaining the existence of the former. -- Analyst]

Field date: 1929-1930
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1961